

Civil Rights and Responsibilities

Paul's Trial and Defense

Part 1 of 2

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What We Will Learn

- Respect for civil rights and responsibilities
- Helps fulfill God's purpose
- Of protecting good from evil
- Based on Paul's trial
- In Jerusalem and Caesarea
- Transfer to Rome
- And subsequent letter to Romans
- Acts 21 through 28; Romans 13

Guiding Principle

Paul's Letter to Romans

- Every authority has been established by God
 - To serve the good
 - And punish wrongdoer
- Subject yourself to governing authority
 - Pay taxes
 - Respect and honor people in authority
- Romans 13:1–7

Romans 13 (NIV)

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13 (NIV)

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.

4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Romans 13 (NIV)

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

Romans 13 (NIV)

7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Respect for Authority and Civil Rights

- During trials in Jerusalem through Rome
- Paul showed respect for authority
- And claimed his civil rights when necessary
- Prevailed at every stage

Case against Paul and His Arrest in Jerusalem

- Teaching Jews to turn away from their custom
- And the laws of Moses
- Jews from Asia stirred up other Jews
- At Temple in Jerusalem
- They arrested Paul and tried to kill him
- Roman commander rescued Paul
- Acts 21:27–36

Acts 21 (NIV)

27 When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him,

28 shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.”

Acts 21 (NIV)

29 (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

30 The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.

Acts 21 (NIV)

31 While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.

32 He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

Acts 21 (NIV)

33 The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.

34 Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks.

Acts 21 (NIV)

35 When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.

36 The crowd that followed kept shouting, “Get rid of him!”

Paul Addresses the Crowd in Jerusalem

- Asked commander for permission to speak
- Stated he is Jew, citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia
 - Educated in Jewish law and customs
 - Zealous for God through law
 - Until his conversion to Christ
- Acts 21:37–40
- Acts 22:1–21 [1–5 read in session]

Acts 21 (NIV)

37 As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, “May I say something to you?”

“Do you speak Greek?” he replied.

38 “Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?”

Acts 21 (NIV)

39 Paul answered, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.”

40 After receiving the commander’s permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic:

Acts 22 (NIV)

1 “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”

2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said:

3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

Acts 22 (NIV)

4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,

5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

Summary of Paul's Defense (Address to the Crowd)

- A Jewish
- Good and respectable citizen
- Demonstrated civil responsibility
- Entitled to protection under the law
- Treatment as a good citizen

Successful Defense Against Torture

- Commander directed Paul be flogged
- And questioned to extract more information
- Paul stated he is a Roman citizen
- It's illegal to flog him
- He had not been found guilty of any crime
- The order was withdrawn immediately
- Acts 22:23–29 [Not read in session]

Paul's Appearance Before the Sanhedrin

- Confrontation with high priest Ananias
- Realized he was high priest
- Withdrew from confrontation in respect
- Told the Pharisees he is one of them
- And on trial because of their belief
- In resurrection
- Acts 23:1–10 [Not read in session]

God Encourages and Reassures Paul

- The Lord appeared to Paul at night
- Encouraged him
- Approved his approach to defending himself
- Acts 23:11

11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”